

**Incinerators for Hospitals in Madhya Pradesh**

† 2250. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government had sent a proposal under Indo-Italian cooperation, for installing incinerators for biochemical waste disposal in hospitals;
- (b) whether this proposal has been approved; and
- (c) if not, by when it would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal received from Government of Madhya Pradesh was examined in consultation with Directorate General of Health Services. The Government of Madhya Pradesh was requested to furnish certain clarifications on 30th August, 2000 in respect of their proposal. The requisite clarifications have been received on 9th March, 2001 in this Ministry and further action on the proposal of Government of Madhya Pradesh will be taken after the examination of the clarifications.

**Mysterious Disease in Siliguri**

2281. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the panic in Siliguri over mysterious disease, on account of which death of 23 persons has occurred;

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether Government are also aware of the exodus, even of doctors, from the area;
- (c) whether it is a fact that WHO is also rushing a team of experts to the area to find out the nature of disease; and
- (d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The patients with symptoms of high fever, vomiting, delirium were first reported on 5th Feb. 2001. On receipt of this information State Health officials accompanied by experts from medical colleges of Kolkata and Institute of Tropical Medical Medicine, Kolkata visited Siliguri to investigate the incidence. Between 16th to 21st February 62 persons suffered from low grade fever, sore throat, respiratory distress and pulmonary oedema. On the request of Government of West Bengal, 11 experts viz 3 from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi, 6 from National Institute of Virology (NIV), Indian Council of Medical Research, Pune and 2 from All India Institute of Medical Sciences were sent to Siliguri to assist the State Health authorities in diagnosis and treatment of the disease. In this connection, WHO also sent 2 experts to Siliguri. Till 2nd March a total of 66 cases reported out of which 45 expired. Based on the clinical features the specialists has extended necessary advise for containment and treatment of the disease. On the request of Government of West Bengal required medicines were sent by the Central Government Medical Stores Depot, Kolkata. Biological samples of the patients suffering from the above symptoms were collected by the teams and the laboratory investigations showed that the virus belong to measles family. Samples have also been sent to Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA for parallel identification.